pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.40 #479 Sept 2023

Mitch Gregory Blues

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Hooked Like Helen

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Lead writer/Photographer/Sales- "Rachel Rocks"

-Staff Photographers-
Jim Price, Rachel Rocks, Meredith Kaminek
Chris Rider

-MOFO (Master Of Financial Operations)-
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Robin Noll, Josh Noll, Rachel Rocks, Jim Price, Keith Hummel, "Space", Deanne Trio, Randy Wilson, Shawn Kurey, Fuzz McGirk, Jimi Jaymz, Dan Mccorkle, Zac Grace, Imelda Redding, Jeff Pittinger, Sterling Koch, and whoever else we can talk into.

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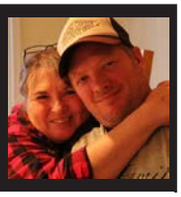
EDITOR RAMBLINGS
By Josh Noll



Welcome back PA, to another action packed issue of the PA Musician Magazine. We have a full issue, with plenty of events to keep you occupied, while the cool air moves in and the leaves begin to fall. Get out and enjoy it because before you know it you'll be drinking pumpkin spiced drinks of all sorts and sizes and wishing you would have done more this summer.

While running around this month we made it over to the first ever Worley's Wild Wild Music Festival! Hosted by Bill and Ann Worley and held at The Barn At River Bend in Newport. It was a great way to spend the day. They had Deimler's Concessions on sight cooking up the grub and Lindgren Craft Brewery filling the drinks up. Accompanied by Zach King and Bobby Battaglia (The Jacks) slinging and slaying the tunes. A little summer shower rolled through right before we got there so the music was moved inside. No one seemed to mind as that meant we got to spend time in the beautiful barn and a cooler, less humid climate. People were still outside playing cornhole and enjoying the day as the music carried through from the Barn. It was like old times. I really miss The Barn at River Bend and hope they can continue to host local events like Wild Bill Worley's. Speaking with Wild Bill he mentioned the possibility of future events so keep your eyes and ears peeled for more details. The amount of local support that showed up really speaks to the need for such local events. Everyone was stoked and Zach and Bobby B put on a hell of a show. These guys both play heartfelt music that you can feel in your soul. Along with their originals, we were treated to some unique covers from Bobby B and some tear jerker Chub covers played by Zach King. Like all good days it seemed to end to soon but we left with our bellies full of good food, drink, and song so I'll call that a success. For more Wild Bill events go to FTG Entertainment on facebook and follow along.

So what's news for September? Reverb has Behemoth on the 10th, Attila on the 14th, The Black Dahlia Murder on the 15th. All leading up to Guitar God, Yngwie Malmsteen on the 20th and Max & Iggor Cavalera on the 29th. Talk about a heavy hitting line up. What could top all that… GWAR!! is coming to Reverb October 14th! Chris at Reverb has been bringing in the big metal shows for years, big hats off and thank you for all you do for the scene.

Nick at 717 Entertainment is keeping the shows rolling at Lovedrafts Brewing Co. in Mechanicsburg. September starts off with Crown the Empire on the 6th, Bury Tomorrow on the 11th. Norseolve and Halocene on the 13th, with Icon For Hire on the 18th backed by Conquer//Divide, The funeral Portrait and Observe the 93rd. October 14th at Lovedrafts is the Suicide Puppets CD release party and I can tell you this CD is looking to be some of the best work the Puppets have done yet. I'm really excited for this one to hit the streets.

Nick is also booking shows down at The Tourist Inn with Seventh Day Slumber on the 15th and Lynch Mob on the 30th with local heavy hitters Defiant and War Brothers.

So much to do it's a little hard to pick where to go next. The Shermans Creek Inn's schedule is so full you could take a dart and throw it at the calendar and no matter where it hits you'll be having a good time; from motorcycle nights, to jeep and off road nights, they got you covered. Throw in some bikini washes and some live music and you're ready for a good time almost any day of the week. Troy is a dedicated supporter of live music and never has a cover charge for live music. Someone asked me how he does that and I said it's simple. Great food and drink prices and top notch service every time you go there keeps the place full. If you want to enjoy the end of summer stop by 'The Creek' some time and check it out, you won't be disappointed.

So say you and your significant other are looking for something different, maybe something with a little MURDER! The Doyle in Duncannon is hosting 'Murder At The Speakeasy' with the Oxymorons Improv Comedy and Entertainment Troupe on October 21st. Its a 1920's Themed Murder Mystery Night including a dinner. The Doyle is a beautiful location rich in history and a great spot for such an event. Get your tickets now by calling 717-596-0455. Check out the Doyle's full schedule on page 3.

Well that's it for this month, if you are reading this thank you for supporting the paper. If you want to join along and become part of 40 years of PA music history just give me a call 717-636-4203 or send me an email joshnoll@pamusician.net. If you're selling something or looking for musicians send me a classified they are free just keep it under 20 words if you can. Get out and support live music!

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Sat. 9/2-Jigsy's Brewpub, Enola, PA, 6-8pm
Sun. 9/3-Tony Locos,Woodbine, MD, 4-7pm
Wed. 9/6-Blue Sky OPEN MIC, Lewisberry, PA, 6-8:30p
Thurs. 9/7-Westgate Lounge, York, PA, 7-10pm
Fri. 9/8-Lebanon Brewing Co, Lebanon,PA, 5-8pm
Sat. 9/9-Private Party, Harrisburg, PA 12:30pm
Sat. 9/9-Max's, Millersburg, PA, 8-11pm
Wed. 9/13-Sherwood Inn, York, PA, 5-8pm
Thurs. 9/14-Anglers & Hunters, Middletown, 6:30pm
Fri. 9/15-Antietam Brewery, Hagerstown, MD, 6-9pm
Sat. 9/16-Linglestown Farm Mkt, 9:30-11:30am
Sat. 9/16-Hook & Flask, Carlisle, PA, 7-10pm
Thurs. 9/21-Tony Locos, Woodbine, MD, 6-9pm
Fri. 9/22- Love Shack, Shermansdale, PA, 7-9pm
Sat. 9/23-Harvest Arts Fest, Carlisle, PA, 10am-12
Sat. 9/23- Anglers & Hunters, Middletown, 1:30-3pm
Sat. 9/23-Jigsy's Brewpub, Enola, PA, 6-8pm
Tues. 9/26-Falls Crab Shack, York Haven, PA, 6-8pm
Wed. 9/27-Riverside Camping Assoc, Lanc, PA, 6-8pm
Thurs. 9/28-Turn House, Columbia, MD, 5:30-8:30pm
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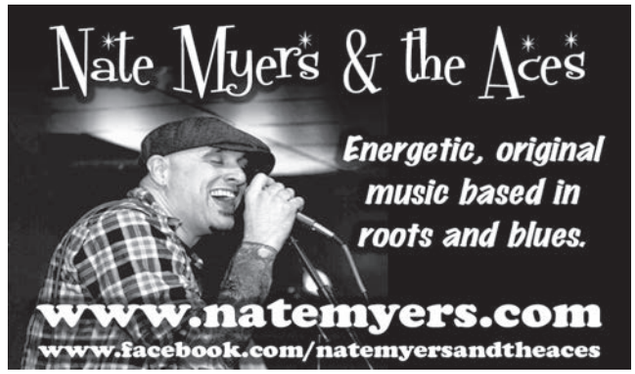
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10/12 Lovedrafts Brewing Co, Mechanicsburg PA
10/21 The Bunkhouse, Carlisle PA
11/18 The Kennel@West York Inn, York PA

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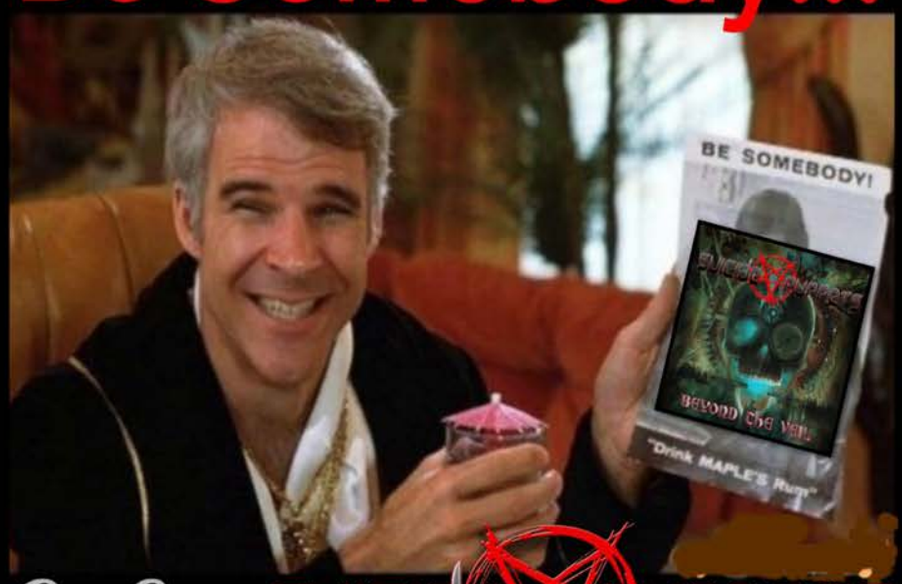

Go See SUICIDE PUPPETS

UPCOMING SHOWS:

10/6. T.I. - YORK, PA

10/14. LOVEDRAFT'S - MECHANICSBURG, PA
(CD RELEASE PARTY)

10/15. DINGBATS - CLIFTON, NJ

10/28. ROCK AND ODDITIES CON - SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

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Sat. 9/16 (8pm-10pm):
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Stonewood

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9/2 Deer Run Camping Resort, Mt Holly Springs PA
9/8 Racehorse Tavern, Thomasville PA
9/9 The Tourist Inn, Hellam PA
9/17 Pumpkin Fest 2023! Middletown PA
9/23 The Burning Bridge Tavern, Wrightsville PA
10/1 The Sherwood Inn, York PA (acoustic show)
10/9 Public House At The Markets, Hanover PA

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

Whoohoo!!! It's my BIRTHDAY!!!! I'm so excited. In Noll land, we don't only get a birth DAY, we get a birth MONTH. I'm the only one in the family with a birthday at the beginning of the month, everyone else was born at the right time, right in the middle. Most of my birthdays were spent either with Mom being completely exhausted from just completing two magazine deadlines, and/or we'd be on the road delivering the magazines. This isn't a bad thing, it's just the way it was. Mom always went out of her way to make sure I still had the best birthdays ever, with all of the most delicious food and tons of friends. I still don't know how she always pulled that off! The magazines never stopped for birthdays. They never stopped for anything. Every month, without fail. This magazine started when I was 3 years old!! The "PA Musicians, music stores, etc.." have paid for my food, clothes, and life in general for a very long time! Some people don't understand the concept of advertising and why we need paid to continue to have a magazine, why we don't run their ads for free or share their stuff on our Facebook page for free.. But that is truly why. To this day the magazine helps pay for my kids food, clothes, shelter, you name it! It's kind of magical when you think about it. We are a tiny, family run business, but we have done GREAT things. We wouldn't be able to do any of that without all of you, and for that I am truly grateful.

This month was another whopper full of craziness. I didn't have a single weekend at home, but yet I still managed to catch some live music here, there and everywhere! I was home during the week, so luckily I was able to catch a few acoustic shows. On a Sunday afternoon I made it home in time to go check out Big Hill Ciderworks for Matt Jameson's debut show. He didn't start til 1:00pm, but he had some fans show up at 11:30 to get a good seat! Matt is truly making strides and gaining some serious fans, like myself, that like to go support him whenever they can. Matt always announces at the beginning of his shows that one thing for sure is he is there to have fun, and have fun is exactly what we do! You seriously can't help but have a good time when Matt's behind the mic. A lot of his fans have also become my friends, so when I do miss shows it breaks my heart because I'm the one that gets to sit back and enjoy his shows while he does all the work. Cider was always one of my favorite drinks, so I have to admit it was a bummer not getting the opportunity to try their ciders, but I was able to get a couple good sniffs of their different ciders and they all smelled amazing. Big Hill Ciderworks is only a few mins off of 15,

continued on page 10...

Matt Jameson at Big Hill Ciderworks

Pappy T's
PUB & LOUNGE

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Fri. 9/8 PHOENIX SIDESHOW
Sat. 9/9 COOLER FULL OF BEER
Fri. 9/15 FRED NEBULA
Sat. 9/16 RADIOACTIVE MUNSTERS
Fri. 9/22 INTENTIONAL WALK
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Fri. 9/29 JOHN DERK
Sat. 9/30 NORTHKILL CREEK BAND
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OCTOBER 14TH
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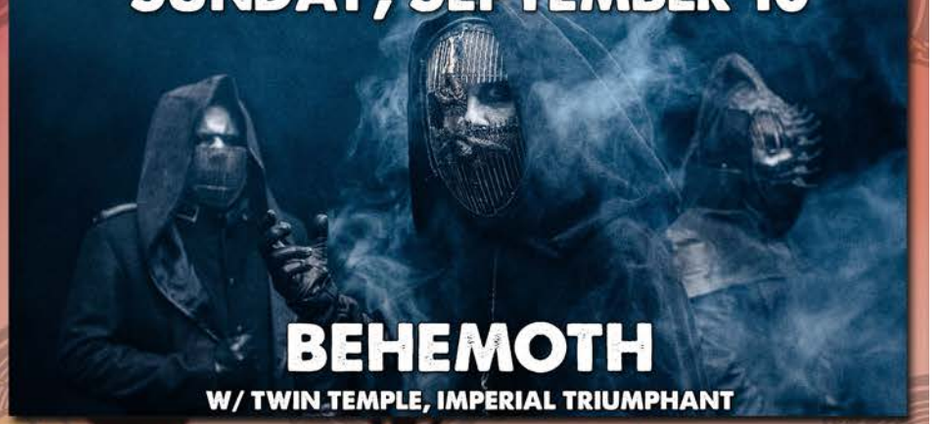

BEHEMOTH
W/ TWIN TEMPLE, IMPERIAL TRIUMPHANT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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W/ GIDEON, TEN56, UNTIL I WAKE, TRAVERSE THE ABYSS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER
W/ CHELSEA GRIN, 200 STAB WOUNDS, GATES TO HELL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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W/ BEAUTIFUL SKELETONS

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9/17 SHAGGY 2 DOPE
9/22 GIMME GIMME DISCO
9/24 DEAD BOYS
10/7 MUSHROOMHEAD
10/8 BOYBAND BRUNCH
10/20 TAYLORS VERSION
10/21 BROADWAY RAVE
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and it's well worth the drive to see their beautiful orchards and farm, and of course support their live music! I am truly proud of Matt and all he has accomplished with his music so far. I know Mom put in his cover story that I'm his manager, that is not the case, I'm just a good supporter. He does all of his own bookings, shows, etc. I'm just along for the ride! Speaking of bookings he is getting ready to crack his calendar for 2024. If you want him booked at your venue or special event, I'd definitely reach out quick! You can find all of his info in his ad in this issue.

The first weekend of the month BRP sent me up to Mt. Airy Casino to cover EnVogue. Yes, the original EnVogue! I really was a little hesitant going into this one, but the really crazy part was I was so impressed with their voices, I got goose bumps, and might've even teared up a little bit. Music moves everyone in different ways at different times and at first this really caught me off guard. After some thought I realized EnVogue was really one of the first powerhouse women artists that I really listened to. And let me tell ya, those ladies still know how to 'drop it like it's hot!' Holy camoley! They put me to shame! HA! What a great show. Once again, music never ceases to amaze me!

Talk about one extreme to the next… EnVogue was happening while PANTERA was rockin' Hershey Stadium, but I didn't let that stop me! Holly, Matt and I took a trip to Montage Mountain for the PANTERA show the next day. Montage is definitely an interesting place to see a show. The parking absolutely sucks, but the theatre is kind of amazing. I think it's a fine example of build it and they will come! HA! I've seen live metal bands before, but it had been a long time! Childbite kicked off the night and quickly had me jumping, dancing and having a good time. They did a great job getting the night kicked off right! Lamb of God, I was never really impressed with, but seeing them live was a whole different experience. Absolutely loved them and couldn't wait for PANTERA! In true support Matt and I wore our PENNTERA merch, and had quite a few people ask us about them, so hopefully Penntera gained a few new fans. From the first note it was a head-banging crazy good time! We started the night up on the Lawn, and even from the moshpit on the lawn I saw a guy have to medically transported out. Just watching them mosh made me want to get more "involved" so I headed down front. Holly and Matt watched from afar, but I had to get with the people.. Feel some sweat and have some serious fun!! Their tributes to Dime and Vinny were so beautiful, the behind the scenes clips of life on tour, and just life in general were truly beautiful. Gotta admit, when they cut it back with their acoustic snippet in "Cemetary Gates" I might've teared up a bit. It was truly awesome to headbang and gently mosh with so many people. I got in a group with 4 other women, and we had a blast! I love when you can feel the heat of the pyrotechnics! It was truly amazing seeing their Pantera banner burning! What an overall experience. Zakk and Charlie had big shoes to fill.. But I'd have to say they filled 'em pretty darn nicely. Watching people hike back up to their cars at the end of the concert looked like a crazy zombie apocalypse, but I'm happy to say we all made it out safely.

Rachel, Holly & Matt at Montage!

The next day we all took a Monday off to enjoy an adult day at Knoebels! So much fun. I absolutely love that park. It has just enough rides to keep it interesting, and the ability to buy the individual tickets instead of wristbands is amazing! While we were standing in line for the bumper cars I kept hearing a really good band, but I couldn't quite place them, finally I had to walk over, and was thrilled to see it was Light Up the Moon! I love those guys! Dazz and Rob were as equally surprised to see me out there watching them. Unfortunately shortly after my discovery, the rain and lightning chased us all away.. But hopefully our paths will cross again soon.

On a Wednesday I decided to zoom down to Sherwood Inn for Derek Henry Acoustic. It just so happened to be his birthday, so I thought of course he would want me to stop by and annoy the crap out of him for his birthday! HA! He was surprised to see me, but I'm nev-

continued on page 11...

er sure if he's happy-surprised, or horrified! HA! Derek has been playing tons of acoustic shows as usual, but I've also heard whisperings about a new video currently being made to fruition! I can't wait to see what he's up to with Observe the 93rd. They did have the amazing opportunity to be one of the winners to the CPMHOF contest, and they were able to play in Bret Michaels After Party-Gras at Hollywood Casino in Grantville. The other lucky winners were Blessing & Fowler, Youth artists: Alex Warner, Faith Noel, and Carmine Gontz. Actually getting the opportunity to join Bret onstage, was Dave Bray USA, Addi Grace, Shea Quinn, and Gun Metal Gray!. What an amazing opportunity for everyone. So bummed I had to miss it, but super grateful to everyone who shared pictures and videos of this awesome night of music!

The Thompson Triplets

The next night I had the opportunity to go to the Central Pennsylvania Youth All-Star Band's Release Party at the Englewood in Hershey for their World Premiere of their music video of The Who's "Baby O'Riley". The kids worked super hard and in just one day in Atrium Audio at Rock Lititz, Grammy-nominated producers, Grant McFarland and Carson Slovak recorded the audio. Chris Rider Photography captured the kids in their element, and Josh Nesmith from Nesmith Films filed the experience and created a kick a** music video to go with it. The project was sponsored by Members 1st Federal Credit Union who happens to be a Platinum Sponsor of the Central PA Music Hall of Fame Youth Artists. The CPMHOF is doing so many amazing things, but all of those "things" do cost money, and they need all of the sponsors they can get! Google the video and check it out! Make it go viral, it definitely deserves it! The Youth All-Star band consists of 8 amazing kids, ages 13-18 years old. It's awesome to see the hope for our future!

On a Friday night my friend Nikki who lives in Lititz wanted to meet for dinner so Holly and I decided to meet her at Mt. Gretna, lucky for us The Thompson Triplets were playing! I've heard of The Thompson Triplets, but it was my first time getting the chance to hear them play. They are a rockin' 80's party band! Their lead singer was having some issues with laryngitis, but with help from his band mates and wild fans, the music still went on! We had a blast hearing so many songs we love. So many laughs and such a good time!

The following weekend I had my first show mishap caused by mother nature. A casino was attempting to have a Food Truck Festival on a hot Summer day in Ohio, and mother nature threw us a curve ball with the threat of a tornado. The sirens were going off, hail started blowing sideways… 7 minutes before showtime. All the equipment was on the stage and we were told to leave the field and everything behind. Miraculously.. As far as we could tell no equipment was damaged, and the tornado touched down about 5 miles away. Way too close for comfort, but just so glad no one or nothing was hurt! Outdoor shows are always a huge gamble, but when the weather cooperates they are so much fun!

Ben at Blue Skye Open Mic

The following week I was finally able to catch Jason Carst at Boneshire. It's been quite a while since I got Boneshire pizza too, so it was a Win-Win! I love watching and listening to Jason grow his loops (is that the right words) into that big band sound. It's

continued on page 12...

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Sunday, 09/10 5-8pm - SUNBOX
Friday, 09/15 - 6-9pm - DEREK HENRY
Sunday 09/17 -5-8pm - THE NEIGHBORLY
Friday, 09/22 - 6-9pm - SHAWN NELSON
Sunday, 09/24 - 5-8pm - RYAN MORAN
Friday, 09/29 - 6-9pm - JOE LERMAN
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The Neighborly
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Friday and Saturday: Bar Open: 11am-12 midnight; Kitchen Open 11am-10pm
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pretty darn cool! If you heard that loud crazy musician playing on the cliffs at Lake Raystown in August that would've been Jason. He got in all kinds of trouble from all kinds of authorities, but no one could figure out who could technically charge him for what! Luckily he got out of his mess, and wound up with about 1,000 more followers on Facebook because a post about the ordeal went crazy! Jason is always tons of fun with a wide variety of music for any occasion. If you get a chance to catch him playing somewhere, you won't be disappointed.

My family took a super fun but way too short adventure up to Cherry Springs State Park to see the stars! It truly is like you are sitting inside the Milky Way.. It's truly as amazing as people say it is. If you want to take your family, pay the extra bucks and do the North Star Tour. They give you access to a super cool telescope and can explain the different constellations. But if you don't have the extra money, it's also cool just plopping

on a blanket and floating through the galaxy with your eyes too!

On a Wednesday I headed to the Blue Sky Open Mic with Matt and Erica hosting. It had been a few weeks since I got a chance to stop by and I'm glad I did. The open mic community is amazing. Everyone just wants to play music, jam and have a good time! Matt and Erica kicked it off, but then it was time for Brock, a new player to the open mic from Mechanicsburg. He set the guitar down for 20 years to raise his family, but now he's back writing songs and making beautiful music. His originals are pretty powerful. Another newcomer, The Millers took the stage next, a 3-piece rockin' group that's creeping out on the scene, they are definitely ones to watch. Rob totally surprised me. He has built up so much confidence. When he first started coming out he would play his guitar and hum along, now he's belting out the songs like a pro! Always a special treat! Derek Alan stepped up next. He's been coming for a while, but somehow I kept missing him when he was up, but this time I paid super close attention. His voice is like butter! He used to be the front man in Fight From the Kid, but he doesn't need a full band, he does an amazing job playing acoustic! Last but not least was Ben; he's another one that has come a long way. He used to play in bands years ago, but now he's also just out there spreading his love of music to anyone who will listen. It's awesome to see how excited he gets just talking about music! The open mic is always fun. The best part about open mics is it's a night of people who just love music; listening, playing, it doesn't really matter. The Blue Sky open mic is a very open format, any type of music, any talent, any age, etc.. Every Wednesday, sign ups always start at 6pm.

The following weekend I had to head to Hollywood Casino at the Meadows for their Corks and Kegs Festival, but on the way I made a couple stops! The first place was Wolf's Brewing again for Derek Henry. This time I finally got a chance to hang out with Angie, Michele, and Jane so that was a bonus! Derek was outside this time while Pat Cusick was playing inside. Two musicians one venue! Gotta love the convenience! I should've probably headed to Meadows at this point, but instead I decided to swing in to Hook & Flask for DMC Duo. Seeing those two is always a special treat! Darrell and Marisa are playing all the time, but a lot of the times they aren't in our area, so I'm glad I caught them this time! After their set it was finally time to hit the road. It always seems like such a great idea until you're only halfway there and you're absolutely exhausted. But alas, I made it without any problems, except the fact that it was 2am.

Corks and Kegs is a Food Truck Festival with Music, Booze, Classic Car Show, Vendors, and so much more. It was held at the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows in Washington, PA, but the true organizer of the event is a magazine called the Observer-Reporter. It was a much bigger event than I was imagining. BRP Entertainment helped book 6 bands for the event: Franchise Band, their energy is something else! They are a perfect band to kick off any festival! The Billy Price Band took the stage and it instantly gave you goosebumps because you knew they were going to be good, and they definitely didn't disappoint. The final band of the night

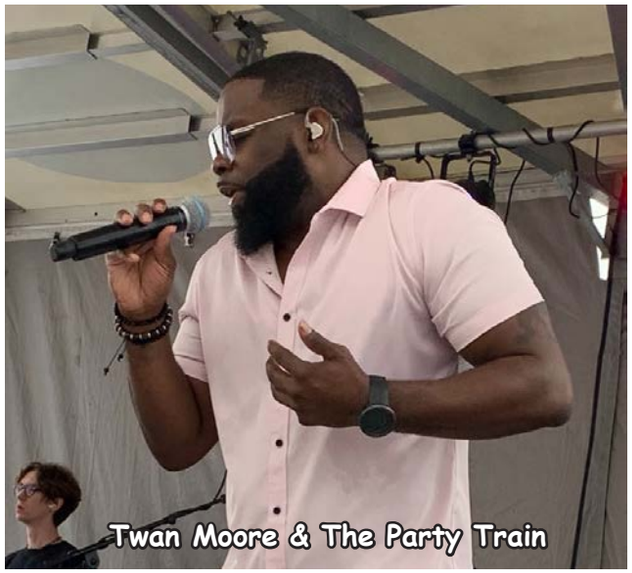
continued on page 13...

was BonJourney, a Bon Jovi, Journey tribute band. Sunday kicked off bright and early with Twan Moore and the Party Train. Again another amazing kick-off band to any festival. When you hear these guys sing you can't help but join in on the fun! Six Gun Sally was the 2nd band of the day, I loved hearing some good Southern Rock! Hearing Molly Hatchet's "Dreams" again was just awesome! Especially on a sunny, beautiful day! The last band of the night was The Clintones, a 90s party band. These guys were having so much fun they didn't even stop for a break, they played straight through their 2-hour set! I was working with an amazing Flyspace Productions team: Jeremy, Turner, and Gracie. Those three were probably all young enough to be my kids, but they knew what they were doing, and they all ran a tight ship too. They were the perfect balance between fun and business, truly top notch! The entire festival was a huge success! Tons of people with perfect weather and plenty of good times were had by all!

I'm excited I finally made it to the end!! Before I go I have to throw a quick birthday shout out to my son, Zachary, he's going to be the big 21 years old on 9/11. Hard to believe my baby is going to be 21. I'm hoping I can convince him to come out and hang with his dear old Mom so I can pass the torch to the next "Noll". Ha! And yes, my silly body decided I had to share my birthday month for the rest of my life, but he's worth it! I love you Zack!!! Be safe and always have a DD!!

Well that's all for this month. If you see me Out and About, please stop me and say Hi. It's another crazy weekend month, but hopefully I'll see some of you at the Kipona, or other amazing places throughout the month. Don't forget to check out our new and improved website! www.pamusician.net. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to hit me up at RachelRocks@pamusician.net. Have a great month and get out there and Support Local Music!

DEADLINE for October issue is Friday, September 22nd!



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11/2/23 - Private Event - Enola, PA
11/3/23 - Double Barrel Roadhouse - Red Lion, PA
11/17/23 - Marion Court Room - Lancaster, PA

NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! Central PA provided many great shows the past month starting with two Harrisburg University Presents shows; Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit on July 26 and The Roots on July 29. Both shows gathered massive crowds along Harrisburg's Riverfront Park. Timmy's Creepshow played a fantastic show at Mechanicsburg's Metropolis Collective on August 17th. Timmy's Creepshow has to be one of best original bands in Central PA and will play a special Halloween show at Hershey's Englewood on November 2nd. Luv Gods played a great show at Red Lion's Double Barrel Roadhouse on August 18th - the concert featured original Sharks members Shea Quinn & Steve Zero along with Ian Rawhauser on vocals. Shea Quinn also joined Poison frontman, Bret Michaels, on stage at Hollywood Casino in Grantville on August 26th. Michaels is currently on his solo tour, 'Parti Gras 2023', and his set consists of 9 Poison songs and 1 Lynyrd Skynyrd song. The Bret Michaels show broke the attendance record for the My Hero's Stage in Grantville. Lastly, an original punk band, I Defeat I, played the new Skid Row Garage in York on August 25th. I Defeat I are a great three-piece band based in Waynesboro with a motto "no gimmicks, no auto-tune, no covers." The band plowed through a fantastic set of screaming heavy originals. I

Tina, Shane Huckle of I Defeat I, & Eric

Defeat I have released two albums, and their next show takes place in Hedgesville, WV on September 30th.

Pat Benatar and husband, Neil Giraldo, played the Spyglass Ridge Winery in Sunbury on August 5th. A huge thank-you to the staff at Spyglass for their hospitality and a really great night. At the age of 70, Pat Benatar, still is an amazing singer delivering classic hits, "All Fired Up," "You Better Run" and "Heartbreaker." This summer Spyglass featured concerts by Night Ranger, 38 Special, Skillet, We Are Messengers, and Colton Dixon - the venue will have Get The Led Out on September 16th.

Guns N' Roses revisited Hersheypark Stadium for the third time in the past seven years on August 11th. GNR first played Hersheypark Stadium in June 1991 during the 'Use Your Illusion Tour' with Skid Row. Singer, Axl Rose, was in great spirits during the recent visit, telling the crowd, "We've got good weather. It's good to be here. It's good to see you - it's GREAT to see you!" Guns N' Roses performed for 3 great hours and played 28 songs. A big highlight of the night was seeing Chrissie Hynde and her band The Pretenders, who opened the show with 14 songs and sounded fantastic.

Legendary alternative rock band, Pixies, are back on the road for their North America 2023 tour. Opening night took place at the Stone Pony Summer Stage in Asbury Park, NJ with support acts Modest Mouse and Cat Power. All three bands provided great sets and are touring together the next month until wrapping up at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles on September 17th.

Bruce Springsteen was forced to postpone his recent Philadelphia concerts after posting on social media he has "taken ill." The shows that were meant to take place on August 16th & 18th at Citizens Bank Park will be rescheduled. The Boss's tour, like many others, has been touched by illness, particularly early in the run. E Streeters Soozie Tyrell, Steven Van Zandt, Nils Lofgren and Jake Clemmons have all missed at least one stop due to positive COVID-19 tests.

Taylor Swift's earth-shattering "Eras' tour wrapped its opening U.S. leg with its six sold-out shows at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, but she'll be back on North American shores in

continued on page 16....

PENNTERA
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9/16 • Baltimore, MD- Fish Head Cantina
10/14 • Mechanicsburg, PA- CMN Music Festival
10/28 • East Berlin, PA- Jen Jen's Rhythm & Brews
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SEPTEMBER 13 @ 8PM HARDCORE / PUNK
CRO-MAGS / WRATH OF TYPHON / OLDE TIGERS

SEPTEMBER 15 @ 8PM PUNK / POP PUNK / INDIE ROCK
HORRORWOOD ENDING / DANVERS / RED DIE NUMBER NINE / TWIST & WRITHE

SEPTEMBER 16 @ 8PM METAL / THRASH / DEATH
WAR ON CHRISTMAS / OPEN FLESH WOUND / BLOOD BUCKET / BANISHMENT

SEPTEMBER 22 @ 8PM DOOM / METAL
VRSA / DOWN TO RUINS / WHEN THE DEADBOLT BREAKS / MANGONG

SEPTEMBER 24 @ 6PM PUNK / POP PUNK
COFFEE WITH LIONS / CURSE WORDS / OVER OUR EYES / BREAK CITY DROWWNERS

SEPTEMBER 29 @ 8PM ROCKABILLY / ROCK
ROCKABILLY RAWKUS WITH BRANDON MARSHALL (AS JOHNNY CASH) / ONE REVIVED / THE SPYDERS

SEPTEMBER 30 @ 8PM DOOM / METAL / ROCK
TANG MOON / END OF AGE / LEGION LOST

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NATIONALS continued...

fall 2024. Swift will play 15 shows in four cities in October and November 2024. Those are the final shows of the tour on what, as of now, will end up being a 20-month 117-show run that could top $1.5 billion in gross. Her California shows brought thousands of fans, "Swifties," to line up for hours to buy merchandise a day before the actual concert. The stadium refused fans to loiter in the parking lot without a ticket to the concert. At Acrisure Stadium in Pittsburgh, estimated 15,000 to 20,000 fans hung around outside the building to soak in the atmosphere tied to Swift's June 16-17 performances in the Steel City.

In 1998, Ms. Lauryn Hill released her acclaimed solo album, The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill, and to mark the LP's 25th anniversary, she will be setting out on a 17-date tour stopping in arenas across the globe. The upcoming trek includes Washington DC's Capital One Arena October 21st and Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Arena October 23rd. Her original band, The Fugees, who had initially announced a reunion tour in 2021 that was continually postponed due to the pandemic, will be joining Ms. Lauryn Hill and opening throughout the North American dates.

Robbie Robertson, the lead guitarist, singer and songwriter of the seminal group The Band, died August 9th in Los Angeles. He was 80. Robertson's long-time manager Sam Levine said he died "surrounded by family." His band became known as The Band, in a sort of cheeky knowingness to their place when they began supporting Bob Dylan in 1964. The Band consisted of - drummer

Pretenders at Hershey Stadium

Levon Helm, bassist Rick Danko, pianist Richard Manuel and organist Garth Hudson, and Robertson. The group fell apart in 1976 and their last concert "The Last Waltz" recorded by Martin Scorsese featured appearances from Beatles, Stones, Dylan and Neil Diamond - and is considered the greatest concert film of all-time.

In a suit filed in Los Angeles August 1st, three women who worked as dancers for musician Lizzo made wide-ranging allegations against Lizzo herself, her production company and her dance captain. The plaintiffs allege a long pattern of sexual harassment, along with religious and racial harassment, disability discrimination, assault and false imprisonment. Lizzo responded, "These last few days have been gut wrenchingly difficult and overwhelmingly disappointing. Usually, I choose not to respond to false allegations, but these are as unbelievable as they sound and too outrageous to not be addressed." A lengthy statement concluded "make it clear the allegations are false." Since the lawsuit was filed, Lizzo has lost hundreds of thousands of followers on social media. In 2019, Oscar nominated director Sophia Nahli Allison left documenting Lizzo due to her "disrespect" and that the singer was "arrogant and unkind."

SEPTEMBER SHOWS: Aerosmith - Philadelphia Wells Fargo Center Sept 2. The Used - Harrisburg XL Live South Stage Sept 8. The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters - York West York Inn Sept 9. L7 - Asbury Park Wonder Bar Sept 14. Dream Wife - NY Brooklyn Made Sept 15. Teenage Bottlerocket - Harrisburg HMAC Sept 16. Billy Idol - Washington DC Atlantis Sept 17. KIX - Merriweather Post Pavilion Sept 17. L7 - Washington DC Black Cat Sept 18. Aerosmith - Washington DC Capitol One Arena Sept 27. Dirty Looks - Selinsgrove Susquehanna Center Sept 30.

Pixies at Asbury Park

I caught up with Mitch Gregory a couple weeks ago at Sturges Speakeasy in Harrisburg, a place he performs throughout the year, and found out what he has been up to. He told me that in addition to regularly updating his repertoire and booking shows, he has put the final touches on his recording of the only blues song he has written, "Not A Nickel". Mitch has written and recorded other originals but says he considers them pop rock songs. He holds the belief that most all the blues songs have likely already been written throughout the many decades and revivals of Blues music. . That being said, Not A Nickel, in the Delta Blues style, was one of those songs that just came through organically and he was compelled to record it. Although he plays slide guitar himself, he had long time bandmate and friend Steve Davis from Lancaster do the slide parts on Mitch's resonator guitar at the final session. Steve Davis performs with Mitch Gregory on select dates and is also a graphic artist who provides much of Mitch's optics. Mitch Gregory's originals, including Not A Nickel, are posted on his website at mitchgregory.com for anyone to freely listen and enjoy.

Mitch Gregory relates that he has played in the Mid-state for twenty five years as a bass player and then more recently as a front man. Because the local music scene is ever changing, one has to roll with those changes and re-invent themselves from time to time if you want to stay busy. His most recent iteration has him devoting himself to solo performance. He has always loved blues music and the classic blues artists. Gravitating to blues music was a natural process because if you ask him why he sings the blues, he will tell you it is because he plays his guitar tuned like a banjo, and is articulate on the harmonica using a neck rack, The open tuning of his guitar facilitates slide playing. "What else should I do but blues. And the real truth is I am not so blue. I am as happy as a clam and I ain't changing that for nobody". There is probably one more song left to be written somewhere within that statement.

Mitch Gregory started and developed his blues act at Boomerang in New Cumberland playing every other Wednesday night post covid. It was an eighteen month residency type gig. The kind of thing he has done several times in the past at different venues. "I was always trying new things and new material during that time, and the material that didn't work, I would just let it go, and develop the material that resonated. I guess I am still doing that, but it serves me well to keep things fresh. I learned and integrated slide guitar at that time. "I still play at Boomerang and enjoy entertaining the dinner crowds before the Comedy Zone shows. I don't consider myself an expert on Blues music, but I try to incorporate entertaining facts about the classic blues artists and their songs, and some fun stories about them, and about me."

Mitch Gregory is performing Texas Blues, New Orleans Blues, Chicago Blues, Delta Blues, and Country Blues. "...all things blue, except for me".. He performs the music of Stevie Ray Vaughan, ZZ top, BB King, Louis Jordan, Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson, Howlin' Wolf, Albert King, Eric Clapton, John Lee Hooker, Stray Cats, Rolling Stones and much more. Mitch Gregory is a multi-instrumentalist and plays guitar, slide guitar, the Wazinator, the foot tambourine, and is an accomplished harmonica player and vocalist.

Mitch Gregory performs throughout the Mid-state and his busy tour schedule is posted below and for future dates and more information go to his website at: **www.mitchgregory.com** and you can like and follow him on Facebook as well. Mitch Gregory welcomes anyone interested in having him perform to contact him through his website or call or text him at **717-512-3731**. Email: mitchgregoryblues@gmail.com. He welcomes agency inquiries and he is now booking shows for 2024.

Friday, 09/01 ~ Sign Of The Horse, Hanover, PA
(York Street Location), 7-10pm,
MITCH GREGORY BLUES TRIO

Saturday, 09/02 ~ The Public House,
Hanover PA, 7-10pm

Monday, 09/04 ~ Private Event

Friday, 09/08, ~ Allenberry Resort,
Boiling Springs PA, 6-9pm

Saturday, 09/09 ~ Private Event

Saturday, 09/16 ~ Private Event

Thursday, 09/21 ~ Allenberry Resort,
Boiling Springs PA, 6-9pm

Saturday, 09/23 ~ Moo Duck Brewery,
Elizabethtown PA, 5:30-8:30pm

Sunday, 09/24 ~ Bainbridge Inn,
Bainbridge PA, 3-6pm

Friday, 09/29 ~ Sign OF The Horse,
Center Square Hanover PA, 7-10pm,
MITCH GREGORY BLUES TRIO

Saturday, 09/30 ~ Grandpa's Love Shack,
Shermans Dale PA, 6-8pm

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

September is knocking on the window as I type this and I can already smell the campfires and assorted festivities that come with the onset of fall. Steely Dan's "Reelin' In The Years" is playing as I start up my article...a song that brings back memories of growing up listening to music with my dad which, as I've probably mentioned more times than necessary, is a huge influence not just in my primary tastes and love for music but also continues to drive me along this really cool journey I've found myself on. August was an incredibly busy month, both on the music front as well as my personal life...all great things, and more to come.

My first trip out for the month was at the invite of Grammy Award winning Fred Pelegrini (congrats again dude!) to the Hershey Brewfest at The Englewood in Hershey. With over a dozen breweries from across the state, various other vendors and of course some awesome music; I was promised a good time and it was surely delivered. First up on stage was Fred and his pals in Crippled But Free covering a slew of Grateful Dead tunes including Feel Like A Stranger, I Know You Rider (how can I NOT love this song? LOL), Crippled But Free, and a bunch more. I never had the pleasure of seeing the Dead myself, but count myself lucky

to be able to get at least a sense of how it must have felt seeing bands like Crippled But Free do such a great job paying tribute to their music. Next up on stage was my friends in Honeypump (2022 CPMA Best Cover Band winners by the way!). Cranking out tunes like Rock & Roll Hoochie Koo, Ramble On & Immigrant Song, Roundabout, and a ton of other great classic rock hits; Ritt and the crew did an awesome job of keeping the crowd up and moving.

A few days later I headed up to Spyglass Ridge Winery in Sunbury. I can't stress enough how beautiful a place this is to catch a show, especially during their Backyard Concert Series. Opening up the show this evening was Chris Trapper. A Grammy nominated artist, Chris has had his work featured in multiple movies and television shows over the years and put on a great performance of songs like In To The Bright Lights, The Accident, and ending his set with a crowd singalong of "You Are My Sunshine" that was not only great, but also hilarious. Headlining the evening was none other than Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo. With over 40 years in the music industry herself, multiple platinum and multi-platinum albums, and not to mention her 2022 induction into the Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame; it was not hard to see how she had earned all these accolades and more. I'm not really sure what impressed me more: The incredible guitar work and musicianship, or Pat's vocals. I don't know if it even matters as it all combined for an amazing performance. Their setlist included songs like Sex As A Weapon, We Belong, Hell Is For Children, and a bunch more. If you ever get the chance to catch her show, I highly recommend it.

Next up was a trip to HMAC in Harrisburg for a show I'd been looking forward to since it was announced. I had no idea on my drive down there though that I would end up finding yet another band that blows me away. This band was the opener, Goodbye June out of Nashville, TN. I'd heard a few of their songs over the last few months and liked what I heard, but hadn't yet taken the time to dig deeper into their music. All I can say about these guys is this: holy

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Sept. 16 Irish Music Session | 5-7
The Full Circle | 9-12
Sept. 22 DJ Jim Payne | 9-12
Sept. 23 Neon Cactus | 9-12
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Oct. 7 Blind Theory | 9-12

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crap! They took that stage and seriously kicked ass! From start to finish, these guys had more energy than Three Mile Island I think. The vocals were powerful, the musicianship was captivating, and their overall stage presence was just purely entertaining. These guys turned me from a passive fan into a huge fan in the span of a 45 minute or so set. They've got 4 albums out so far and I can't see what they come out with next. Headlining the evening was Hinder. I've listened to these guys for years now and was very excited to finally catch them live. Playing songs like Without You, Better Than Me, Life In The Fast Lane, and Lips Of An Angel, they played with a well-honed stage presence; interacting with the crowd constantly and just putting on a damn good rock show. I also want to give a shout out to a new friend that I made this evening at the show, Hinder's self-proclaimed biggest and youngest fan: Abby. Abby's mom brought her to see them for her second time and it was awesome watching her jam out to her favorite band while singing along to EVERY SINGLE SONG!

My next trip was back down to The Englewood for the Central PA Youth All Star Band release party debuting their music video of The Who's Baba O'Riley. Let me back up a few weeks here to preface this if you don't mind. Back in July, I'd been asked by the Central Pennsylvania Music Hall Of Fame to trek down to Rock Lititz to get some behind the scenes and promo photos during a video production. Eight of Central PA's most talented teen artists and musicians came together to

continued on next page..

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8 - Ten Ton Stone 8-11pm
9 - The Unusual Guests 8- 11pm
12 - DJ KJ Nelson 6-9pm
13 - Karaoke 6-9pm
14 - Free Jukebox, Pool, and Darts / Off Road Night 6-9pm
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23 - Love Rocket 8-11pm
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15 - Corina Rose 5-8pm
16 - Donnie Unitus 5-8pm
17 - Jessica Batz 4-7pm
22 - Slade Heller 5-8pm
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24 - Ten Ton Stone 1-4pm
30 - Love Rocket 1-4pm

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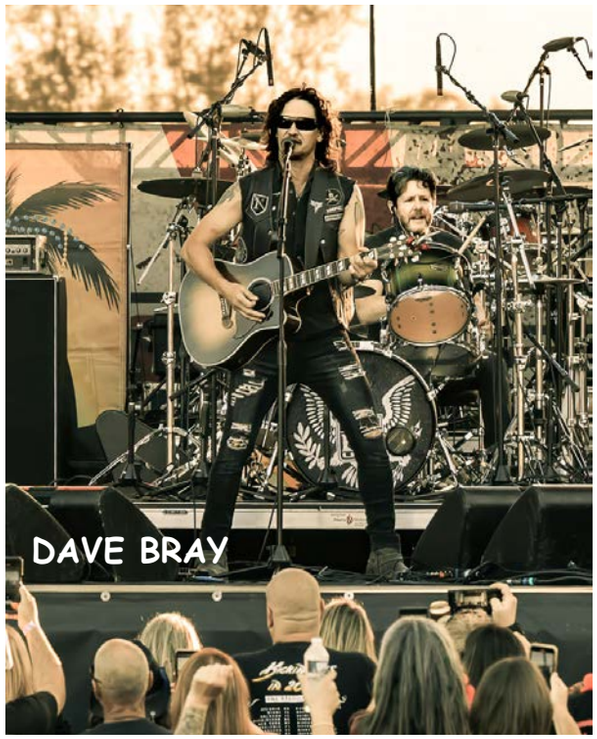
perform and record Baba O'Riley, all while being videoed as well. Addi Grace, Amani Weary (of Before The End), Carmine Gontz, Noah Gibney, Faith Noel, Alex Lee Warner, Levi Dickinson, and Ethan Valentine got together with Grammy nominated producers Grant McFarland and Carson Slovak of Atrium Audio to mold this vision in to a reality. I have to say, I never would have thought I would get the opportunity to see a group of 13 to 18 year old musicians work so hard, and with such professionalism as I did this day. I think I can safely say it was an awesome experience for them, and for everyone involved. Now, back to the point of the evening – this was the premier showing of the video created that day. The final version of the video was every bit as good as I expected, and the audio even moreso. It was so cool getting to be a small part of this project, and then seeing the final results presented this way for a great crowd at The Englewood. If you haven't seen it yet, hop on Youtube and search for Baba O'Riley (The Who cover) – Central Pennsylvania Youth All-Star Band – CPMHOF

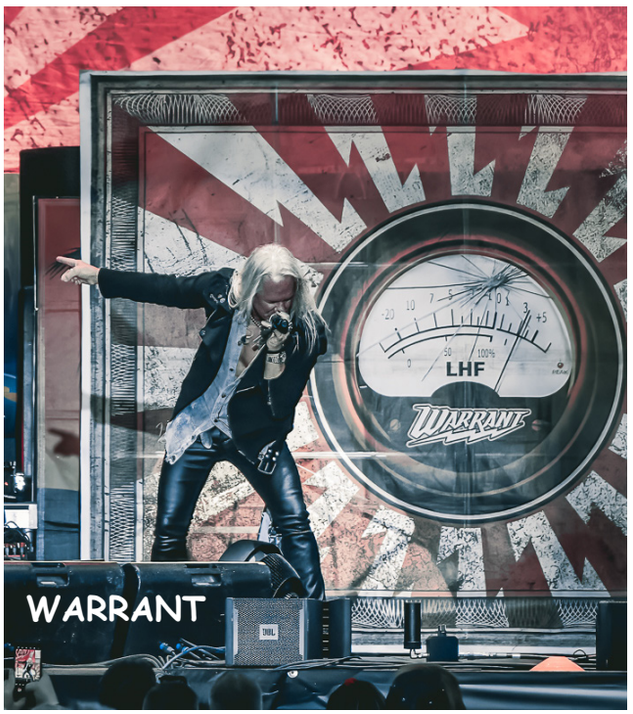
The following week saw me heading down to The Doyle Hotel in Duncannon for a bite to eat and some great acoustic tunes provided by Kirk James Folk. Kirk's played around the area for quite a while now and I had a blast listening to him cover songs like Goin To California, The Weight, Starting Over (a personal favorite of mine), as well as a few originals.

My final trip out for the month was to a new place for me (at least for a concert LOL), Hollywood Casino in Grantville for Bret Michaels' homecoming show for his Party-Gras tour. Opening up the show was PA native Dave Bray: a Rock N' Roll patriot and US Navy Veteran. I've followed Dave for a while now on social media and was excited to see him open up a show like this. Playing songs like God Bless America, the Marine Corps Hymn, , Fourth Of July (all in a solid rock style), as well as a really cool mashup of Enter Sandman/Justice For All/Don't Tread On Me/



Fuel; Dave did an awesome job of getting the crowd warmed up for an awesome night of rock. Next on stage was a band I listened to a lot growing up, and had the chance to photograph a few years ago in Harrisburg – Warrant. These guys do not slow down once they hit the stage, they were pure energy and heart as they played through their set including Where The Down Boys Go, Filthy Stinking Rich, Heaven Isn't To Far Away, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and a bunch of others. Rounding out the evening was Mechanicsburg's own Bret Michaels. The excitement was palpable as Bret took the stage for his hometown crowd. It showed in his constant interaction with the crowd, with his band and with the music they shared. They started out with a few Poison favorites like Look What The Cat Dragged In and Mama Don't Dance, then Bret brought our very own Addi Grace out on stage to join him in playing Every Rose Has It's Thorn. Addi absolutely killed this performance with Bret and I couldn't have been happier to see her have her moment up there like this. Addi and Bret were then joined by Shea Quinn as well to perform the classic Nothing But A Good Time. Not slowing down with bringing local musicians on stage with him, Bret also brought up David Damone of Gun metal Gray to sing along with him as well. The amount of support shown for our local scene really was amazing! The show closed out with an awesome version of Sweet Home Alabama while huge beach balls were flying around above the crowd and a beautiful fireworks show went off behind and above the stage. Bret promised to bring the party, and he absolutely delivered! Following the show, there were even more performances up in the casino by Observe The 93rd, Blessing & Fowler, Faith Noel, Carmine Gontz & Alex Lee Warner which I managed to catch a little bit of as well.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out & around and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.



All photos on pages 18- 20 by Chris Rider Photography

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THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

Live music has kept me very busy in recent weeks, as the cavalcade of outdoor music festivals, concerts, county fairs, carnivals and other events reach their peak before the summer season starts winding down this month. You might feel exhausted after reading how crazy the past several weeks have been for me!

County fair season arrived in recent weeks, and several local fairs featured live music. The 162nd Clearfield County Fair in early August featured several national recording artists, including Granger Smith, Cooper Alan, Ted Nugent, and the concert I attended: Tesla. The current lineup of founding members Brian Wheat on bass, Frank Hannon on guitar and Jeff Keith on vocals; plus Dave Rude on guitar and Steve Brown on drums did songs from throughout Tesla's catalog; including FM radio staples like "Modern Day Cowboy," "Heaven's Trail (No Way Out)," "What You Give," "Love Song" and "Little Suzi." The group also did deeper cuts such as the set-opener "Lady Luck," "Hang Tough," "Time to Rock," "Changes," "Love Me" and more. Highlights included their song "Private Ledbetter," which was dedicated to veterans; the group played the song while footage of soldiers were shown on the backdrops, and Frank ended the song with a guitar rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner." During the song "Edison's Medicine" (about Nikola Tesla's rivalry with Thomas Edison), Frank worked a theremin to add to the song's effect and theme. And when the large crowd called for the encore, Tesla responded with their Top 10 hit remake of Five Man Electrical Band's "Signs" to close out the night. Jeff's voice was in good form throughout the show, and the rest of the group brought the instrumental firepower.

The 149th annual Bedford County Fair in late July featured live entertainment each night. I attended on Monday of fair week, first checking out the third annual "Voices on the Grandstand" amateur talent contest, hosted by Galla (of Dan & Galla). Contestants sang and performed songs in three age groups, with cash prizes awarded to the winners. Afterward, I saw West Virginia-based performers JEDD Nation under the midway pavilion. This group has grown by a member since I last saw them in October, with drummer Duke Dalmer joining guitarist and singer Joe Crites, lead singer and guitarist Donnie Carman and bassist Eric Houdersheldt. JEDD Nation did a nice blend of classic rock, pop and country hits with a few surprises, including versions of Flock Of Seagulls' "I Ran" and Tommy Roe's "Sweet Pea." The group's solid performance, tight harmonies and pleasant vibes were a hit with the audience, and they received a good response.

Jerrichah of Rock Hazel

I braved the stormy forecast to attend last month's annual Huntingdon County Fair. Like the Bedford fair, I went on a Monday night, and checked out Stephanie & the Wild Hearts. This group recently introduced a new drummer, as Les Beatty now works the drum kit; joining singer Stephanie Onkst, guitarist and singer Bob Onkst, lead guitarist Chad Morral and bassist Jake Naugle. Stephanie & the Wild Hearts continue to perform rebel country and rock'n'roll; mixing numbers from the Eagles, Johnny and June Carter Cash, CCR, Dwight Yoakam, John Mellencamp, Miranda Lambert, Elvis Presley, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Gretchen Wilson, Jeannie C. Riley, original songs like "Jealous of You" and "Shake It Just a Little More" and others. Highlights included a mom-and-daughter moment as young Bobbie Mae Onkst joined mom Stephanie to help sing Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots. Another highlight was Chad cutting loose on guitar during a rendition of Stevie Ray Vaughan's "Pride and Joy," and an unexpected curveball as the group finished the night with a strong version of Chicago's "25 or 6 to 4." Stephanie & the Wild Hearts' energy and enthusiasm easily won over the Huntingdon fair audience.

Music festivals also kept me busy, as I attended the Saturday half of last month's annual AmeriServ Flood City Music Festival, held in and around People's Natural Gas Park in Johnstown. Eight bands played on three stages this day, kicking off with my first look at rising young Johnstown foursome The Platelets. Featuring lead singer and guitarist Clint Sparling, lead guitarist Nate Jackson, bassist Ron Jezeskie and drummer Dylan Jackson, The Platelets introduced a unique blend of indie-flavored rock, funk, infectious grooves and more. The group mixed original songs and covers, including numbers from

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Jeff Keith of Tesla

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Frank Hannon of Tesla

THE PROFESSOR continued...

their debut album "Steelworker's Soul" such as "Money Jazz" and "Beach Girls," plus inventive takes on King Harvest's "Dancing in the Moonlight," the Rolling Stones' "Miss You," Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" and more. Ron did some amazing things on bass throughout the set, and drummer Dylan displayed his skills on the group's set-ending rendition of Led Zeppelin's "Moby Dick." Next was Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys, making their first visit back to Johnstown since this festival's predecessor, the AmeriServ FolkFest, in 2004. Four members strong including namesake Big Sandy on vocals and guitar, this group had the crowd moving from the get-go, dancing to their blend of roots sounds spanning rockabilly, surf, vintage country, Tex-Mex flavors and more. The group did songs from country legend Faron Young, the "King of Western Swing" Bob Wills, and paid homage to Tejano singer and songwriter Freddy Fender; plus performed many of their own original songs. Six members strong, New York City's Melt melded together modern funk, rock, pop, jazz and soul flavors into a bright mix of their own. Melt triggered plenty of dance floor activity with a number of their original songs, plus mixed in versions of Tina Turner's "The Best" and a rocking take on Neil Young's "Harvest Moon." I caught a good portion of Johnstown indie-folk duo The Evergreens' performance. Comprised of Laurel on vocals and guitar, and Amanda on drums, The Evergreens played a wide selection of popular numbers spanning the 1960s to 1990s; performing each in their own distinctive flavor. There's a beauty to the simplicity of The Evergreens' presentation, as Amanda's drumming and percussion nuances perfectly complement Laurel's delicate singing style and guitar work. Their song selection included numbers from Dusty Springfield, The Band, Janis Joplin, Everclear, Fleet-

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THE PROFESSOR continued...

wood Mac, Johnny Cash, Rod Stewart, Donovan, original numbers and more. I next checked out the latter half of Trouble No More's performance, and was blown away by this Memphis group's powerful presentation of Allman Brothers music. Guest Kanika Moore from Doom Flamingo (who played the previous day) provided the vocal firepower, and Trouble No More delivered the instrumental fireworks. Their 20-minute-plus workout on "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed" was mesmerizing and amazing; especially witnessing the guitar tandem of Brandon "Taz" Niederaurer and Daniel Donato blend and match wits with each other. They then followed with one of the most intense renderings of "Whipping Post" I have witnessed outside of the Allman Brothers themselves! I next saw Pittsburgh's Chalk Dinosaur, who crafted mostly instrumental soundscapes blending elements of electronica, psychedelic rock and funk. They established an almost nonstop flowing groove of driving beats that quickly got the audience up in front of the stage and dancing, and the grooves set the backdrop for the group to experiment and explore, introducing their melodies along the way. Next was this day's headliners, Los Lobos, marking their 50th anniversary as a band this year. Returning to this festival after their first headlining appearance in 2010, Los Lobos introduced a wide mix of flavors, spanning rock to Tejano and mariachi music, blues, boogie, jam, touches of punk rock and more. Los Lobos generated the energy with many songs from throughout their career; some included "Will the Wolf Survive," "Love Special Delivery," "Georgia Slop," "Lose My Mind" and "I Got Loaded." They also broke out a version of Ritchie Valens' "Come On, Let's Go" and a hard-rocking take on the Grateful Dead's "Bertha" to close out their main set. But when the huge crowd called for the encore, Los Lobos responded with their 1987 chart-topping version of Ritchie Valens' "La Bamba," which turned into a mash-up with The Rascals' "Good Lovin.'" The festival closed out with New Jersey-based jam band performers Dogs In A Pile. Five members strong, Dogs In A Pile established a central, almost nonstop groove that set the foundation for the group to explore and improvise, landing on various song locations along the way. The group had a large crowd dancing and grooving in front of the stage for the duration of their performance. Flood City Music Festival again delivered top notch music from start to end this day; next year's edition happens on July 26-27, 2024.

Laurel of
The Evergreens

Nine days after attending the Tesla concert there, I returned to the Clearfield County fairgrounds to check out the first night of this year's Upstage Music Fest. Hardcore, punk, metalcore and power metal were the prominent flavors of this year's fest as 37 different bands played on two stages during the event's two days. I arrived in time to witness Philipsburg-based Assault On 5th as they delivered brute-force metalcore that quickly got the stage-front crowd churning. Featuring vocalist Corey Read, drummer Kenny Bish, guitarist Axl Cummings and bassist Julian Yeager, Assault On 5th unleashed the fury with original tunes, including numbers off their new album, "Inner Mechanics of a Fragile Mind." Local rockers Treaties followed with their punk-driven brand of original rock. Singer and guitarist Brandon Kane, bassist Brad Davis and drummer Toby Hunter played high-octane numbers, including tunes off their just-released album "Parting Gifts." Lansing, Michigan's Heartsick then lit up the house with their volatile mix of nu-metal and metalcore.

Guest Kanika Moore
w/ Trouble No More

Niko Kreider of
The Hillbilly Biscuits

Mixing elements of melody and aggression, Heartsick delivered their song creations with fury and attitude, stirring up the turbulent crowd in front of the stage. Next up was Buffalo, New York's Debrained, who grinded out their brand of murky-toned death metal and grindcore. Northern Virginia's Age Of Ruin then brought the thrash with their variation of metal and metalcore. This group delivered intense melodies with relentless aggression, and also succeeded in stirring up folks in front of the stage. Pittsburgh's Cemented In Fear fired up the pit with their brutal hardcore beat-

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down; defined by all-out rage backed with a full wall of full-force power chords and hammering rhythms. Finishing the night was New Jersey's Prevailer with another demonstration of full-force metalcore. Their stage aggression was volatile and nonstop, and they also successfully fired up the remaining crowd. The Upstage Music Fest featured two nationally-known names on the following day's slate, Sick Of It All and Life Of Agony.

Stephanie of Stephanie & the Wild Hearts w/ daughter Mae helping on vocals

I took in some of the Saturday half of this year's Mass N Tha Grass Music & Arts Retreat, which took place at the Sinking Valley Fairgrounds in Skelp (between Tyrone and Altoona). This festival's atmosphere was a bit more laid back and tranquil, and a diverse musical mix kept this festival's audience entertained over two days. I caught a few of the afternoon acts; Altoona-based indie singer and songwriter Nik Mik was performing as I arrived. Nik introduced various songs from his original song catalog, mixed with his musings about how his songs came about. The music then shifted in a much heavier direction as A Starlite Gray introduced their brand of progressive-leaning metalcore. Having just played the Upstage Music Fest the day before, A Starlite Gray introduced a different audience to their mix of volatile vocals, wall-of-sound guitars and intense, pulsing rhythms. The group did several of their original songs, including "Halos," "A Starlite Gray," "Love Remains," "From Here to Eternity" and more. The music then shifted back to acoustic, as the PennSoulvanians duo of singer and guitarist Chet Denny plus singer and poet Michael "DuVille" Thomas played a set mixing several of their original song creations with select covers. The pair did some of their PennSoulvanians song creations such as "Hustle Til the Morning" and "Pilgrimage," and also lent their own distinctive flavor to numbers by Prince, Phil Collins, Bob Marley, Chris Stapleton and others. And I caught the Bomb Cyclones' set as they mixed rock and soul. With Doug Cruse playing rhythm guitar this day, the Bomb Cyclones entertained onlookers with numbers from Amy Winehouse, Collective Soul, Pat Benatar, Heart, Tracy Chapman and more. They also did a version of Screamin' Cheetah Wheelies' "Shakin' the Blues."

Area musicians and the community came together in support of area veterans during last month's annual Vets Fest at Altoona's Unter Uns Musical & Entertainment Society. Five bands donated their talents at this year's event, kicking off with the Backyard Rockers. Rich Dasch on lead vocals and acoustic guitar, and yours truly on hand percussion and backing vocals, welcomed several musical guests during our set, including DJ Gates and Kip Woodring from Bone Jacked, and guitarists Craig Albright and John McKelvey from The Stiffs. It turned into a fun, jamming set to open the afternoon, as we did numbers from Rod Stewart, The Band, Lone Crow Medicine Show, Tom Petty, Marshall Tucker Band and more. Bone Jacked then played hearty classic rock'n'roll, including numbers from CCR, Tom Petty, T. Rex, Charlie Daniels, Stray Cats, Pink Floyd and more. The Stiffs mixed original songs with tunes from The Smithereens, Eric Clapton, Spirit, Stealer's Wheel and others, triggering some of the first dance floor activity of the day. Added to the bill late to fill in for another band who needed to bow out, Hot Wax entertained with their mixture of rock'n'roll hits, spanning Pure Prairie League to Queen to the Beatles, Van Morrison and more. And as two members of Hot Wax – singer and guitarist Mike Zerbee and bassist Chris Myers – are also members of Full Kilt, they welcomed Kilt drummer Jake Yarnish up to sit in on several Irish-toned numbers, plus guest singer Chet Harker to sing on a Johnny Cash song. And XM finished the event on an upbeat note, performing their mix of rock and dance numbers. With Don Osborn filling in for Randy Rutherford on guitar, XM triggered dance floor action with tunes from Pink, Robert Palmer, Jimmy Eat World, Shania Twain, Blondie and more. This day also saw a visit from the Legion Riders of Bellwood to show their support to area veterans, along with a basket raffle and 50/50 drawings. Altogether, this year's Vets Fest raised more than $4,000 to help out local veterans via the Vietnam Veterans of America Blair County Chapter 967.

David Hidalgo of Los Lobos

The "Power of a Wish" was on full display, and bluegrass music filled the air at the Cresson Sportsmen's Association last month as the 9th annual Pickin' for Wishes Bluegrass Festival raised funds to help make wishes come true for children battling illnesses and life-challenging situations via the Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. So far, this event has raised more than $271,000, enabling 55 wishes to be granted. The day featured four bluegrass bands – youthful Keyser, West Virginia bluegrassers Center Fire Bluegrass; the Hickory Bottom Band with members from Bedford and Somerset Counties; Morgantown, West Virginia favorites The Hillbilly Biscuits and Altoona's Mama Corn – performing in rotation and doing two sets each during the event. In between groups, several "Wish Kids" past and present were brought to the stage area to share their stories – including young Eva, who was informed that her wish of a trip to Disneyland has been granted…also Todd, born with cerebral palsy and wheelchair-bound, who received his initial wish 25 years ago of getting to tour the Caterpillar manufacturing plant in Peoria, Illinois. His father explained that ever since, Caterpillar has bent over backwards to grant more special things for Todd; the latest being an internship with Caterpillar followed by his hiring as part of the visitor's relations department of Caterpillar! The blend of music, wish stories and the entire sense of community made this a special day that earned plentiful donations to make more wishes happen.

Mario of The Mario Crocetti Band

I saw several tribute bands via various events in recent weeks…The late July installment of the PA Roundhouse Rally at Roundhouse Harley-Davidson near Duncansville featured two headlining tribute acts; Charleston, South Carolina-based Blink-182 tribute group Blank 281 (seen on Jimmy Fallon's "Clash of the Cover Bands" on E! Network) and Florida-based Foreigner's Journey, covering the music of Foreigner and Journey. Donny Burns & the 3rd Degree, The Pines and Half Tempted also performed during the Roundhouse Rally…The early August edition of the Rockin' the Yard concert series at Altoona's Jaffa Shrine upper

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lot presented Ohio-based Fleetwood Mac tribute group Fleetwood Gold, whose roster includes singer, guitarist and flute player Chris Shutters, who recently became the new singer for Blood, Sweat & Tears. Bone Jacked opened that event…And San Diego, California-based Foo Fighters tribute the Fooz Fighters – who won Jimmy

Jim Price, Peter Konstantakos (Foreigners Journey) and Bob Taylor

Fallon's "Clash of the Cover Bands" on E! Network – entertained a huge crowd of wing-eating music enthusiasts during a late July edition of WingFest at Tussey Mountain Amphitheater near Boalsburg; Eric Ian Farmer and friends opened that event.

Another highlight for me in recent weeks was seeing the man who taught me to play accordion in my youth – Mario Crocetti – as he and his group entertained during the St. Benedict Roman Catholic Church Festival in Carrolltown in late July. This was a pleasant and fun performance as Mario and his singer, Jack Dominick – both well into their 90s – along with Mario's son, Mike Crocetti on drums and Brian Regala on saxophone entertained a good-sized crowd of onlookers. They did a wide variety of pop favorites and standards – including hits from Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Louis Prima, Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, Bobby Darin and more. They also did Italian-themed hits such as Lou Monte's "Pepino the Italian Mouse" and Dean Martin's "That's Amore," and several polkas such as the "Beer Barrel Polka," "Tick Tock Polka," "Julida Polka" and others. Jack – whose career included performing with local group The Chordettes for more than 40 years – displayed a hearty voice and lots of gusto as he made his cane his "dancing partner," and even prompted a toddler to dance while he sang Elvis' "Don't Be Cruel." The group closed out their performance with a musical salute to the military, performing a medley of songs that saluted the Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and Army while asking veterans of those armed forces to stand and be recognized. It was heartening to see these musicians having fun and still doing what they do. Performing after Mario and his group were area country-geared acoustic duo Rob Sottile and Ken Gray.

I saw a couple of bands for the first time in recent weeks…I caught one of the first shows by new Bedford/Cumberland-based foursome Rock Hazel, as they entertained at "Rock the River" along the Juniata River near Fort Bedford Museum in downtown Bedford. Featuring the husband-and-wife duo of guitarist Travis Ickes and singer Cherrichah, plus bassist Jim Robinette and drummer Bill Taylor, Rock Hazel kept the audience happy and dancing with their mixture of classic rock and dance favorites from Bryan Adams, Joan Jett, 4 Non Blondes, Pat Benatar, Toni Basil, GoGo's, Beastie Boys and more…And I caught my first look at Johnstown-based foursome The Rusty Shackles last month as they performed at the Windber Hotel. Including singer and acoustic guitarist Ed Locher IV, lead guitarist Adam Milkovich, bassist Chris Verbano and drummer Luke Harrison, The Rusty Shackles performed an interesting blend of alt-country, edgy Americana and classic rock. Their set this night included a diverse range of artists such as Shooter Jennings, Rolling Stones, Social Distortion, Todd Snider, Neil Young, George Jones, Jason Isbell, Lou Reed and others; and the group did songs off their debut CD, "Joyland."

I saw local rock'n'rollers Freedom Rocks in action in late July at the annual Cresson Community Carnival, held at the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company. The husband-and-wife duo of drummer Mike and singer Jo Ann Nardelli plus guitarist Vic Sabo triggered some street dancing with their blend of classic and vintage rock hits. They did favorites from CCR, AC/DC, Roy Orbison, Fleetwood Mac, The Ventures, Joan Jett, 4 Non Blondes, Steppenwolf, ZZ Top, Bonnie Tyler, Bob Seger and many more.

Denise Strayer performing w/ Eric Ian Farmer

Other performers I saw recently included Austin, Texas' Hanna Barakat (with Altoona's Lisa Fazenbaker on percussion) as part of the Altoona Curve baseball team's "Curve Concert Series" at Altoona's People's Natural Gas Field prior to the Curve's game against the Reading Fightin' Phils…The return of Lancaster-based theatrical metal rockers Illusions Of Grandeur at McGarvey's in Altoona in late July…The four-band metal, punk and metalcore "F**k Work Show" last month at McGarvey's featuring Grimm & the Reapers, The BSXpress, Seethe (a solo creative endeavor by Pittsburgh's Patrick McElravy) and Altoona's SamarA…Also the three-band punk rock banger at McGarvey's featuring Pittsburgh's President Bomber (featuring the band members dressed up as U.S. Presidents, complete with headgear), Frostburg's The Downstrokes and longtime Pittsburgh punk force the Mud City Manglers…and The "Acoustic Machine" showcase at McGarvey's, featuring performances by Brian Middleton, Kylor Westbrook, Nik Mik and Kevo Can't Dance…***Whew!***

Eric Ian Farmer

The area music scene was saddened by the passing of several musicians in recent weeks… Longtime area musician Tim Homerski passed away Aug. 8 at age 65. Tim was a multi-talented instrumentalist, singer and songwriter, and was involved in numerous area rock bands since the 1970s; including Fantasy Airlift, Homer's Army, and more recently, Acoustic Stew and Nag Champions Mystery Band. A Celebration of Life to honor Tim will take place on Saturday, September 9 at 2 p.m. at the pavilion at Hastings Park…A former Altoona area musician that moved to Florida, David Tornatore passed away on Aug. 6 at age 78. Dave sang and played guitar for more than 60 years, and was a member of such bands as The Hallucinations, Spectrum and the Fabulous Flashbacks, plus a band he was involved with after moving to Florida, Bad Kitty…Paul Caracciolo Sr. passed away on Aug. 8 at age 80. An active musician of the Altoona area music scene going back to the 1950s, Paul was a member of such groups as Paul & the HiFi's, the Dreamliners, the Stereos, the Ron Sassano Trio and the Prime Time Band. Paul was the father of current Bomb Cyclones

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THE PROFESSOR continued...

and former Flight 19 drummer Paul Caracciolo II…And Dave Moses passed away unexpectedly on August 20 at age 61. Dave fronted the heavy metal groups One Gun Salute and Frayed in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and had performed as an acoustic artist in more recent years. Also involved in local theater, Dave played the role of "Uncle Ernie" during P&J Productions' presentation of the rock opera "Tommy" last October at Altoona's historic Mishler Theatre. In addition, Dave was the father of Chelsea and Stevie Moses, both who performed together in the youth rock band EVK. And he was the founder of his technology business, Dave Moses Technology Services, Inc…Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of all four men.

News and notes…The 4th annual Homegrown Music & Community Festival happens Sept. 9 at the 1st Summit Arena at Johnstown's Cambria County War Memorial, with proceeds benefiting three Johnstown area charities. Performing will be The Panels, Even Toe Odds, Stars of the West Hills and Shades Of June…The 11th annual Northern Appalachian Folk Festival takes place Sept. 7-9 in downtown Indiana, with live music happening all three days…The annual Cre814 Music, Art and Makers Festival happens Sept. 23 at the Blue Knob Clubhouse at Blue Knob All Seasons Resort; featuring art and craft vendors, food trucks and live music on two stages...Young Altoona rockers Sweet Desire enjoyed a special experience last month when they got to open for the Steve Miller Band at the Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston, Michigan (outside Detroit)…The Brewery live music venue and the Music Mart music store in State College faced a scare last month when the city's borough council voted to initiate the process of using eminent domain to take over the building housing both businesses so that a new parking garage would be built in its place. But public pressure and outcry prompted the council to repeal the eminent domain resolution two weeks later…Lead guitarist Steve Lehocky is parting ways with Eastern Ohio-based metal rockers Doctor Smoke after a ten-year run to pursue other endeavors.

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. Continue to SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC! *Photos by Jim Price pages 21 thru 26*

Mike Crocetti of the Mario Crocetti Band

Pennsylvania Musician Magazine's Mission Statement

Mission Statement: The Pennsylvania Musician Magazine is designed in format as a publicity and marketing tool for the music industry throughout the state of Pennsylvania. It is a source to unite the industry giving the public a publication to use to find out who, what, and where the best music in PA is happening. Information provided by those who choose to use our pages to advertise and promote their events.

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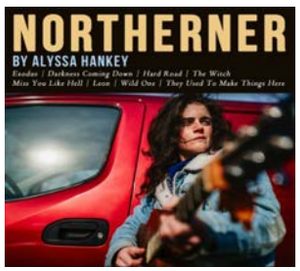
PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

ALYSSA HANKEY – *NORTHERNER* (no label) Singer, songwriter and troubadour Alyssa Hankey continues to explore life, hope and despair in the western Pennsylvania rust belt on her third album, "Northerner." Alyssa wrote most of the album's eight songs during the COVID-19 pandemic, painting musical vignettes inspired by her home area of western PA (a rural area north of Pittsburgh), some of the character types she has met along the way, and the freedom of leaving that home area and hitting the highway. Alyssa enlisted a cast of musicians to help her bring the songs to full fruition; including Chris Belin (Derek Woods Band) on drums and percussion, Jake Horwat on bass, Buddy Reiger on organ and piano, Alec Zander Redd on saxophone, and Jane West on backing vocals. The lead-off track, "Exodus," sets the album's tone with the despair of rusted-out town and rusted-out life, while resolving that it's never too late to take the reins and lift oneself from that dead-end situation. With a more upbeat folk-rock flavor, "Darkness Coming Down" desires to break away from the daily blue-collar grind and live for the moment. Alyssa's craving to travel reaches a restless high on the uptempo folk-rocker "Miss You Like Hell," and her rebellious spirit rages against the machine on the Tom Petty-flavored ode "Wild One." Alyssa crafts two character profiles on the album; painting a picture of a predatory femme fatale on the bluesy "The Witch," and describing a personable town drunk on the organ-driven "Leon." Alyssa's harmonica helps set a sullen tone for the grueling "Hard Road," while the closing number "They Used to Make Things Here" uses a vehicle ride to reminisce about a town's manufacturing past. Always front and center, Alyssa's distinctively raspy voice, raw emotion and determined cadence bring these song vignettes to life, and her poignant words stir emotions and trigger visions of the world she sings about. Her team of musicians effectively flesh out and color the songs, supporting the melodies and Alyssa's presentation. Recorded in a variety of settings, and mixed and mastered by Dan Yost of Just Records, "Northerner" sounds full, sturdy and cohesive from start to end. Alyssa Hankey further defines her musical identity with "Northerner," in the process introducing listeners to her smalltown world and her restlessness to escape its grasp. An intriguing listen. (The album can be accessed through digital platforms, or obtained from Alyssa's website, www.alyssahankey.com.)



CHRIS NELSON – *BLACK LIGHT AMBIENCE* (no label) Lebanon's Chris Nelson has been playing music for more than 25 years; and created many songs during that span, mostly under the name of his former band Fishkill. Since embarking on the solo artist route after 2006, Chris has steadily developed his own distinctive style and sound, which he has branded "dark folk" – a mixture of folk, hard rock and blues. His latest album, "Black Light Ambience," features a dozen, mostly hard-hitting numbers centered around a theme of the chaotic state of today's world. This album displays a loose garage-rock feel with touches of 1960s-styled psychedelia, with Chris singing and playing all the instruments. The general tone of the album leans angrier, as Chris vents on a variety of issues. Setting an uptempo, almost frantic pace, he questions the concept of fame and its real worth on the album opener "Wrecking Ball," and addresses wealth and greed on the rampaging rocker "All the Same." Chris expresses paranoia over Big Brother watching everybody's every move on the hard-charging "Surveillance Song," and questions fears of imminent doomsday on the crunchy "Yeah Right." Establishing a slower and slinkier pace, the title track "Black Light Ambience" explores societal division, stupidity and ignorance, while "World of Supermen" encourages support of community and fellow human beings; on the other hand, "Hard to Believe" addresses the hypocrisy of championing tolerance and diversity until it lands on our own doorsteps. The album delivers a hopeful finish; Chris' slow blues exercise "That Ship Has Sailed" encourages listeners to do their best each day while they are still around to do so, while the closing track "Daylight" expresses that hope is always on the horizon, and daylight always follows darkness. These melodies offer solid hooks, and the presentation here is raw and gritty; Chris' performance is hearty and emphatic, and he sounds totally invested in these songs and their words. The overall production is basic and lets Chris' voice and instruments do the talking; devoid of extra studio polish, bells or whistles. "Black Light Ambience" presents a stirring and sincere listen, as Chris Nelson muses about our troubled world and offers hope that we can make it better. (The album can be obtained through Chris' Bandcamp page or through his website, www.chrisnelsonband.com.)

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